GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3219
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2007
FAKE MEDICINES
Nandy Shri Amitava

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been reports of fake medicines from India being seized in Europe;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to curb the problem of fake medicines?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) The Ministry has not received any report in this regard.

(c) The Govt. has taken following steps to check the menance of fake / spurious drugs in the country.

i. This Ministry has initiated the process of amending the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, to provide for stricter penalties, in pursuance of the recommendation of the Mashelkar Committee, which was set up for a comprehensive review of the regulatory system in the country including the extent of problem of spurious drugs and to suggest remedial measures to deal with, this problem effectively.The major amendments proposed relate to enhancement of penalties prescribed under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, provision of special courts of drug related offences, compounding of offences, authorizing the police also to file prosecution for drug related offences and making all drug related offences cognizable and non-bail able. All this is expected to act as a strong deterrent for manufacturers of counterfeit drugs.

ii. A proposal for setting up of Central Drug Authority for uniform implementation of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act in the country, has already been approved by the Cabinet.

iii. Government of India has also launched a 5 year World Bank aided Capacity Building Project for Food Safety and Quality Control Drugs with a total project cost of Rs.354.25 crores. Extensive assistance - is being provided to State Governments to augment their drug testing facility by way of equipments, manpower, training and civil works under the Project.